

## **Other UDOT Traffic Information Brochures:**

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## **For More Information:**

Please contact a UDOT Regional Traffic Engineer located in your region of the State:

Northern Utah (801) 399-5921

Salt Lake County (801) 975-4900

Utah County (801) 227-8019

Southern Utah (435) 893-4799

Or visit the UDOT website at  
<http://www.dot.state.ut.us>

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## **UDOT Traffic Information Brochure**

## **Pedestrian Signals**



**Utah Department of  
Transportation**

**Division of Traffic  
& Safety**

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# Pedestrian Signals

Pedestrian signals are used to help people walk across intersections safely by providing adequate time to cross the street. This brochure answers some commonly asked questions about pedestrian signals.

## What do the signals mean?



**Start Crossing** when this signal appears.



**Flashing:** Don't Start Crossing If the signal is flashing, or a countdown timer is displayed. If you have already begun to cross the street, you will have enough time to get across safely.



**Steady:**  
**Don't Cross**  
Remain on the curb.

## Why does the WALK signal change before I get across the street?

The WALK signal tells you that it is legal to start. Once you have begun to cross, the flashing DON'T WALK is timed to get you safely across. The vehicle signal in your direction will remain green while the flashing DON'T WALK is on. The flashing DON'T WALK tells pedestrians who have arrived too late at the crosswalk that it is no longer permissible to start.

## Why is it necessary to push the button to cross the street? Why can't I just wait for the next green light?

At some traffic signals, pedestrian pushbuttons are not necessary because the WALK signal is programmed to occur with every green light. This has been done at some intersections because of the high numbers of pedestrians crossing the street on a regular basis.

However, at most traffic signals, the pedestrian WALK signal will only appear if the button is pushed. A green light alone does not guarantee that you will have enough time to safely walk across the street. The timing of the green light may be controlled only by the passage of vehicles, and may not be long enough for pedestrians. Pushing the button and waiting for the WALK signal will ensure that you have enough time to cross safely. Remember, it is illegal under Utah State Law to cross when the signal says "DON'T WALK".

## Why doesn't the WALK signal come on immediately when I push the button?

Traffic signals are programmed to give green signals to traffic movements in a certain sequence. At a busy intersection, it may take as long as two minutes to go through a complete cycle which serves everyone.

When you push the button, the traffic signal controller records your request for the WALK signal and schedules this request into its cycle. The WALK signal will appear as soon as all of the traffic movements already scheduled ahead of you are completed.

## When I have the WALK signal, do I have the right-of-way over turning vehicles?

The WALK signal gives you the legal right-of-way while crossing the street. However, that will not protect you from careless drivers who do not know or obey the law. Always watch for turning vehicles when crossing the street. Make eye contact with drivers to make sure that they see you.

Other suggestions for safely crossing the street at a traffic signal are:

- Stay in the crosswalk
- Walk promptly, but do not run across the street
- If you are walking or jogging at night, wear bright clothing.